Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

Information Rights Unit
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
WH 2.177
King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH

Email: information.rights@fcdo.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/fcdo

Dania Akkad

[redacted]

23rd April 2024

Dear Dania Akkad

SUBECT ACCESS REQUEST (SAR) REF NO: DPR2023/24229

Thank you for your letter of 8 December to the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) in which you made a subject access request under the General Data Protection Regulation 2018 (GDPR) as supplemented by the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA).

You requested:

> *I'm seeking access to all correspondence related to FOI requests I've made to the FCDO since 24 March 2022 until the present. Please include all correspondence on this topic, including my FOI requests, your responses and any communications about my requests or your responses.*
>
> *Please let me know if you need any further clarification - thanks for your help,*
>
> *Dania Akkad*

I can confirm that the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office holds information relevant to your request - I am enclosing a copy of that information. You should be aware that some of the information we hold relates to third parties. We consider that releasing this information to you would constitute a breach of the GDPR/DPA and we have therefore redacted it. We do not hold any further information to which you are entitled under the above legislation other than that which has been released to you.

Please refer to our Personal Information Charter and Privacy Notices on gov.uk for supplementary information on how the FCDO handles personal data.

If you would like a review of our decision, please write to Information Rights Unit, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, Room WG.75, King Charles Street, London, SW1A 2AH. Email:information.rights@fcdo.gov.uk Please note you have 40 working days to do so from the date of this letter.

You can apply directly to the Information Commissioner. However, the Information Commissioner will not normally make a decision unless you have first exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the FCDO. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF, or online at https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/
Yours sincerely,

Information Rights Unit

Original request:

“I'm seeking access to all correspondence related to FOI requests I've made to the FCDO since 24 March 2022 until the present. Please include all correspondence on this topic, including my FOI requests, your responses and any communications about my requests or your responses.”

Case Ref	Title / Subject	Contacts
IR2022/27555	FCO correspondence on arms sales to Saudi Arabia	Ms Dania Akkad ***Middle East Eye***
FOI2022/24692	FCO correspondence on arms sales to Saudi Arabia	Ms Dania Akkad ***Middle East Eye***
FOI2021/19203	UK training of Saudi officers	Ms Dania Akkad

	on sanction list 2013-2017	***Middle East Eye***
FOI2022/26080	UK government property in Jerusalem	Ms Dania Akkad ***Middle East Eye***
FOI2022/08743	Minutes of any meetings, 1-15 October 2016, attended by both B Johnson & T Ellwood	Dania Akkad ***Middle East Eye***
DPR2023/24229	SAR - Dania Akkad	Dania Akkad

IR2022/27555

[Redacted]
Correspondent
Ms Dania Akkad (Middle East Eye)
Date Received: 24-OCT-2022

Correspondence Description

Dear Information Rights Unit,

Thank you for your response to my 20 Sept request (FOI 2022/24692). I'd now like to request an internal review of your decision.

Thank you,

Dania Akkad

On Fri, Sep 30, 2022 at 2:29 PM Information Rights Unit <no-reply@fcdo.ecase.co.uk> wrote:

Dear Ms Akkad,

I am writing in response to your Freedom of Information request FOI2022/24692, received 20th September. Please find our response attached.

Yours sincerely,

Information Rights Unit

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

From: Information Rights Unit <no-reply@fcdo.ecase.co.uk>
Sent: Monday, October 24, 2022 3:15 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: IR - Ref: IR2022/27555

Dear Ms Akkad,

Internal Review for FOI2022/24692

Thank you for your request for an internal review of our response to your FOI Request Ref FOI2022/24692

We received your request on 24th October and it has been assigned a unique reference number above. We will aim to respond by 21st November.

Please note, however, that reprioritisation of resources due to the COVID-19 crisis, and measures we are required to take to prevent the spread of the virus, continue to have an impact on our ability to respond to all requests within the statutory deadline.

We have significantly reduced on-site working which will mean delays to responses which require access to paper records.

We are endeavouring to process requests as quickly as possible, and appreciate your patience at this time.

Yours sincerely,

Information Rights Unit

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

From: [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Sent: Friday, January 6, 2023 11:20 AM
To: [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: IR REQUEST: FOI2022/24692: Dania Akkad - FCO correspondence on arms sales to Saudi Arabia

[Redacted]

Attached is an IR reply

- A previous reply, also a s12, stated that there was no way to provide refinement advice. Requester subsequently submitted a further request with a different timeframe.

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, January 3, 2023 3:49 PM
To: [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Cc: [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk
Subject: RE: IR REQUEST: FOI2022/24692: Dania Akkad - FCO correspondence on arms sales to Saudi Arabia

[Redacted]

Attached is a draft reply to Ms Akkad [Redacted]

From: [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Sent: 03 January 2023 13:41
To: [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Cc: [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>

Subject: FW: IR REQUEST: FOI2022/24692: Dania Akkad - FCO correspondence on arms sales to Saudi Arabia

[Redacted]

The requester has complained to the Information Commissioners Office (email below) about delay responding. I have replied that we are taking forward the IR request. I will also contact requester to confirm we are processing their request.

[Redacted]

From: icocasework
Sent: 20 December 2022 11:48
To: [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Subject: Your email to the ICO - Case Reference IC-194841-W3K2

20 December 2022

Case Reference: IC-194841-W3K2

[Redacted]

I have received further correspondence from the complainant which states they are still not in receipt of a response to their internal review request of 16 November 2022, and my follow up email of the same date.

Please advise by return and include a copy of any response sent to the complainant, to this case for our records.

[Redacted]
Information Commissioner's Office
[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Sent: 12 January 2023 10:31
To: [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>;
Cc: [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: IR REQUEST: FOI2022/24692: Dania Akkad - FCO correspondence on arms sales to Saudi Arabia

[Redacted]

This was the third FOI request from Dania Akkad. Previous requests were: FOI2022/09908 (March 22) and FOI2022/18968 (July 22).

FOI2022/09908 – in the response we suggested narrowing the original request by amending the date range.

FOI2022/18968 – we established that S12 would apply regardless of the date range and that no refinement was necessary

I appreciate we should do our best to supply any information that we hold. In this case I believe that is exactly what we have done, but it hasn't produced what the requestor hoped. In reality, there is an end-point in this type of activity and this appears to be it. We should tell the requestor that and not incorrectly raise expectations [Redacted]

From: [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Sent: 11 January 2023 15:22
To: [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Cc: [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: IR REQUEST: FOI2022/24692: Dania Akkad - FCO correspondence on arms sales to Saudi Arabia

[Redacted] I think that we really need to add in some guidance on how to narrow the request.

If this were to lead to an ICO complaint they would comment on the lack of assistance provided to the requester [Redacted]

From: [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Sent: 30 November 2022 14:09
To: [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Cc: [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: IR REQUEST: FOI2022/24692: Dania Akkad - FCO correspondence on arms sales to Saudi Arabia

[Redacted] Are dept absolutely sure we could not ask requester to narrow any future request. We had already used that line with the requestor and this was their follow-up request [Redacted]

From: [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Sent: 21 September 2022 13:28
To: [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>;
Cc: [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>;
Subject: RE: NEW FOI2022/24692: Dania Akkad - FCO correspondence on arms sales to Saudi Arabia

[Redacted] We have dealt with two previous requests from Dania Akkad in the last six months. Each time the same information has been requested with the date range amended. We have issued a S12 response for both previous requests.

[Redacted]

From: Dania Akkad [redacted]
Sent: 20 September 2022 15:28
To: Information Rights (Sensitive) <information.rights@fco.gov.uk>
Subject: FOI request: FCO correspondence on arms sales to Saudi Arabia

Dear Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office FOI Unit,

Background to request:

Information previously released into the public domain following FOI requests has shown that then-Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson and the Foreign Office Arms Export Policy Team approved continued UK arms sales to Saudi Arabia in July and August 2016, following airstrikes by the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen. See:

https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/boris-johnson-arms-sales-saudi-arabia-yemen-war-weapons-exports-a8955091.html
https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/jun/11/johnson-allowed-arms-sales-to-saudis-after-strike-on-food-factory

Request:

Under the FOIA 2000, please disclose any FCO correspondence on the topic of arms exports and/or arms export licence applications to Saudi Arabia between 8 October 2016 and 14 October 2016 between the FCO and Department for International Trade, and ministers and their teams, including Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the Secretary of State for International Trade and the Prime Minister.

I do not believe that any exemptions will apply to the information within the scope of the request, but in the event that it is asserted that they apply, then please set out full written reasons. If my request is refused based on Section 12 of FOIA 2000, could you please suggest more appropriate dates to bring it within the cost limit?

Please acknowledge my request promptly and respond substantively within 20 working days.

Thank you for your help,
Dania Akkad

--

Dania Akkad *Senior Investigations Editor, Middle East Eye*

T: [redacted]
W: http://www.middleeasteye.net

From: Information Rights Unit <no-reply@fcdo.ecase.co.uk>
Sent: Friday, November 25, 2022 2:20 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Change to the Response Due Date for IR2022/27555

Dear Ms Akkad

We are still working on the review of our FOI request. The date that the response is due for your internal review request, IR2022/27555, has been changed to 19th December.

Kind Regards

Information Rights Unit

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

From: Information Rights Unit <no-reply@fcdo.ecase.co.uk>
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2023 5:02 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Internal Review Request - Ref: IR2022/27555

Dear Ms Akkad,

I am writing in response to your internal review request IR2022/27555, received 24th October. Please find attached our response.

Yours sincerely,

Information Rights Unit

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

FOI2022/26080

[Redacted]

Correspondent

Ms Dania Akkad (Middle East Eye)

[Redacted]
Correspondence Date
07-OCT-2022
Correspondence Method
Email
Correspondence Description
(Wording of Request)
Under FOIA 2000, can you please disclose:

1. all properties that the UK government currently owns in Jerusalem

2. when these properties were purchased and from whom

[Redacted]

12/10 Refinement from requestor sent [Redacted] The thinking here is that the asker was trying to pre-empt where a possible new embassy based in Jerusalem could be located.

[Redacted]

From: Information Rights Unit
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2022 1:09 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: FOI Request - Ref: FOI2022/26080

Dear Ms Akkad,

I am writing in response to your Freedom of Information request FOI2022/26080, received 10th October. Please find our response attached.

Yours sincerely,

Information Rights Unit

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

From: [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2022 4:14 PM
To: [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>;
Cc: [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: FOI202226080

[Redacted] this is the journalist that reported on the 'Orange Plot' in October [Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 24 October 2022 11:30
To: [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Cc: [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
[Redacted]

FOI2022/25382

Could you please share with me any briefing documents given to the Foreign Secretary detailing the risks and benefits of moving the British Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem.

FOI2022/25697

Please provide copies of all diplomatic telegrams and correspondence from:

a) the British embassy in Israel

and b) the British consulate general in Jerusalem

between 15 September 2021 (the date Truss became foreign secretary) until 3 October 2022 (up to the time of this email) relating to the UK's review of the location of the British embassy in Israel.

FOI2022/26080

can you please disclose: 1. all properties (buildings or plots of land) that the UK government and agents acting on its behalf currently own in Jerusalem located in the region within the red circle drawn on the attached map.
[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Sent: 19 October 2022 15:37
To: [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Cc: [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
[Redacted]

FOI Questions – Details

FOI2022/25697

****

Dear FCDO

I hope you are well.

I'd like to request the following information please under the Freedom of Information Act:

Please provide copies of all diplomatic telegrams and correspondence from:

a) the British embassy in Israel

and b) the British consulate general in Jerusalem

between 15 September 2021 (the date Truss became foreign secretary) until 3 October 2022 (up to the time of this email) relating to the UK's review of the location of the British embassy in Israel.

Please let me know if you require any further information from my side.

****

FOI2022/26080

****

Dear Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office,

This is a narrowing of a request that I made on Friday (7 October) that you asked me to refine.

Under FOIA 2000, can you please disclose:

1. all properties (buildings or plots of land) that the UK government and agents acting on its behalf currently own in Jerusalem located in the region within the red circle drawn on the **attached map**.

[This area is bounded roughly and in part by Asher Viner Street to the south; HaUman, Mekor Haim and Emek Refa'im streets to the west, Yifthak and Naomi streets to the north; and Asheya Street which turns into Meir Feinein Street to the east]

Refinement

Here is a refinement that the requestor has sent in, in relation to FOI2022/26080, a map has been provided by the requestor (attached to this email).

[Redacted]

From: Dania Akkad [redacted]
Sent: 10 October 2022 21:54
To: Information Rights (Sensitive) <information.rights@fco.gov.uk>
Subject: FOI Request: UK government property in Jerusalem's Talpiot neighbourhood

Dear Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office,

This is a narrowing of a request that I made on Friday (7 October) that you asked me to refine.

Yours faithfully,

Dania Akkad
--

Dania Akkad *Senior Investigations Editor, Middle East Eye*

[redacted]
W: http://www.middleeasteye.net

From: Dania Akkad [redacted]
Sent: 07 October 2022 17:03
To: Information Rights (Sensitive) <information.rights@fco.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: FOI request: UK government property in Jerusalem

Hi,

Thanks very much for your reply. I'd be more than happy to refine.

I was hoping to know what properties the government currently owns in Jerusalem. When you say time frame, do you mean could I refine my ask to include the time frame in which properties currently owned were first purchased?

Thanks for any advice you have,

Dania

On Fri, Oct 7, 2022 at 3:40 PM Information Rights (Sensitive) <information.rights@fcdo.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear Diana

Thank you for your email to the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

In order for us to be able to assist you with your request and best direct any search please could you clarify/refine the scope of your request.

Would it be possible for you to refine your request and specify a particular timeframe for the information you are interested in?

Once we receive your revised request we will consider it and the appropriate course of action.

Yours sincerely,

Information Rights Unit

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

From: Information Rights Unit <no-reply@fcdo.ecase.co.uk>
Sent: Monday, October 10, 2022 2:10 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Request for information - Ref: FOI2022/26080

Dear Ms Akkad

Thank you for your FOI request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

We received your request on 10th October. It has been assigned a unique reference number (above). We aim to respond by 7th November.

Yours sincerely,

Information Rights Unit

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

FOI2022/24692

[Redacted]
Correspondent
Ms Dania Akkad (Middle East Eye)
[Redacted]
Date Received
20-SEP-2022

From: Information Rights Unit <no-reply@fcdo.ecase.co.uk>
Sent: Friday, September 30, 2022 2:29 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: FOI Request - Ref: FOI2022/24692

Dear Ms Akkad,

I am writing in response to your Freedom of Information request FOI2022/24692, received 20th September. Please find our response attached.

Yours sincerely,

Information Rights Unit

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

From: [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Sent: 28 September 2022 17:04
To: [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Subject: FOI2022/24692: Dania Akkad - FCO correspondence on arms sales to Saudi Arabia

Subject:

FOI requester is asking for '*any FCO correspondence on the topic of arms exports and/or arms export licence applications to Saudi Arabia between 8 October 2016 and 14 October 2016 between the FCO and Department for International Trade, and ministers and their teams, including Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the Secretary of State for International Trade and the Prime Minister*'.

- request has been refused under section 12
- We have previously replied to a request on same subject (again a refusal on cost grounds). The requester has changed the date range in latest request, but dept have confirmed still a section 12 refusal.
- We have reiterated information provided in our previous response - that although requester as altered the timeframe in latest request, as we have no way of easily identifying the information requested and we are unable to offer any viable suggestions on how request could be narrowed in a way that would enable us to comply with it within the FOI cost limit
- As always, we are 'requester blind' when considering any request, but just for info requester is a journalist.

[Redacted]

From: Information Rights Unit <no-reply@fcdo.ecase.co.uk>
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2022 12:08 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Request for information - Ref: FOI2022/24692

Dear Ms Akkad

Thank you for your FOI request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

We received your request on 20th September. It has been assigned a unique reference number (above). We aim to respond by 18th October.

Yours sincerely,

Information Rights Unit

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

FOI2022/18968

[Redacted]
Correspondent
Ms Dania Akkad (Middle East Eye)

[Redacted] it's unfortunate that the requester followed our refinement advice in the previous response and we're now saying that no refinement is possible... .
[Redacted]
RE FOI2022 18968 Dania Akkad

From: Information Rights Unit <no-reply@fcdo.ecase.co.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 11:17 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: FOI Request - Ref: FOI2022/18968

Dear Ms Akkad,

I am writing in response to your Freedom of Information request FOI2022/18968, received 4th July. Please find our response attached.

Yours sincerely,

Information Rights Unit

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

From: [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Sent: 27 July 2022 16:37
To: [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Cc: [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: NEW FOI2022/18968: Dania Akkad - FCO correspondence on arms sales to Saudi Arabia #2

[Redacted]

My understanding is that we are unlikely to suggest to the requester that they refine with a narrower timeframe.

[Redacted]

From: Information Rights Unit <no-reply@fcdo.ecase.co.uk>
Sent: Wednesday, July 6, 2022 2:48 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Request for information - Ref: FOI2022/18968

Dear Ms Akkad

Thank you for your FOI request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

We received your request on 4th July. It has been assigned a unique reference number (above). We aim to respond by Monday, 1st July.

Yours sincerely,

Information Rights Unit

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

FOI2022/09908

[Redacted]
Correspondent
Ms Dania Akkad (Middle East Eye)

From: Dania Akkad [redacted]
Sent: 09 May 2022 13:20
To: Information Rights (Sensitive) <information.rights@fco.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: FOI Request - Ref: FOI2022/09908

Hello,

I hope this email finds you well. I wanted to get in touch because I hadn't heard back from the unit following my email on 28 April (below), and wanted to ensure that it was received.

I believe I have 40 days to appeal your decision, but I'm not sure if I need to appeal because I'm still unclear whether the narrowed down details I sent to Jordan Wilson on 6 April were included in your final decision.

Thanks for any help you can offer,

Dania

On Thu, Apr 28, 2022 at 1:32 PM Dania Akkad [redacted] wrote:

Dear Information Rights Unit,

Thank you for your letter earlier this week about my FOI request made on 25 March (FOI2022/09908).

I've seen in your letter that my request made on 25 March will exceed the allotted work hours to process. I wanted to follow up because I had an email exchange earlier this month with Jordan Wilson who I believe is in your unit. He asked for more details about what I was looking for and, at that time, I offered a bit more detail (in an email on 6 April) that I had hoped would narrow down the scope of my request.

Specifically, I wrote to Mr Wilson: I seek to obtain correspondence on the topic of arms exports and/or arms export license applications to Saudi Arabia between 1 October 2016 and 31 October 2016 between the FCO and Department for International Trade, and ministers and their teams, including Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the Secretary of State for International Trade and the Prime Minister.

However, that exchange - and those extra details - were not included in your letter this week, so I wasn't sure if they were factored when your decision was made on my request. Were they? If they weren't, do I need to submit a new FOI with these details, or would you reconsider my request?

Thanks very much for your help,

Dania Akkad

--

Dania Akkad *Senior Investigations Editor, Middle East Eye*

[redacted]

W: http://www.middleeasteye.net

From: Information Rights Unit <no-reply@fcdo.ecase.co.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 2:37 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: FOI Request - Ref: FOI2022/09908

Dear Ms Akkad,

I am writing in response to your Freedom of Information request FOI2022/09908, received 25th March. Please find our response attached.

Yours sincerely,

Information Rights Unit

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Sent: 12 April 2022 10:02
To: [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>; [Redacted]@trade.gov.uk>
Cc: [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: NEW FOI2022/09908: Diana Akkad - Correspondence on arm exports/licensing applications, Saudi Arabia, Oct 2016

[Redacted]

The person asking this FOI has come back to clarify (and narrow down) the request as below
[Redacted]

_____

[Redacted]

Clarification:

FCDO FOI Unit,

Thanks very much for your follow up question on my 25 March FOI request.

I seek to obtain correspondence on the topic of arms exports and/or arms export license applications to Saudi Arabia between 1 October 2016 and 31 October 2016 between the FCO and Department for International Trade, and ministers and their teams, including Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the Secretary of State for International Trade and the Prime Minister.

Please just let me know if you need further clarification to process the request.

[Redacted]

On Mon, Apr 4, 2022 at 2:25 PM Jordan Wilson (Sensitive) <Jordan.Wilson@fcdo.gov.uk> wrote:

Dear Ms Akkad,

Thank you for your email of 25 March to the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office, asking about correspondence on the topic of arms exports and/or arms export licence applications to Saudi Arabia between 1 October 2016 and 3 October 2016.

We would like to know what type of *"Export Control Joint Unit correspondence"* you are seeking to obtain on the topic of *"arms exports…to Saudi Arabia, between 1 October 2016 and 31 October 2016"* i.e., Can you confirm the correspondence between which parties you are interested in?

As this will help us identify the information that you are interested in.

Regards

Information rights Unit

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Monday, April 4, 2022 1:55 PM
To: [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Cc: [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Subject: FOI2022/09908 - clarification email.

[Redacted] here is the clarification email to go out to Dania Akkad [Redacted]

Ms Dania Akkad

Middle East Eye
[redacted]

Clarification email:

[Redacted]

From: Information Rights Unit <no-reply@fcdo.ecase.co.uk>
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2022 2:41 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Request for information - Ref: FOI2022/09908

Dear Ms Akkad

Thank you for your FOI request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

We received your request on 25th March. It has been assigned a unique reference number (above). We aim to respond by Tuesday, 26th April.

Please note, however, that reprioritisation of resources due to the COVID-19 crisis, and measures we are required to take to prevent the spread of the virus, continue to have an impact on our ability to respond to all requests within the statutory deadline.

We have significantly reduced on-site working which will mean delays to responses which require access to paper records.

We are endeavouring to process requests as quickly as possible, and appreciate your patience at this time.

Yours sincerely,

Information Rights Unit

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

FOI2022/08743

[Redacted]

Correspondent

Dania Akkad (Middle East Eye)

Case Title
Minutes of any meetings, 1-15 October 2016, attended by both B Johnson & T Ellwood
Email Subject
Minutes of meetings, 1-15 October 2016, attended by Johnson & Ellwood
Department
Date Received
15-MAR-2022
Correspondence Description
(Wording of Request)
Under the FOIA 2000, I am writing to request: 1. The minutes of any meetings attended by both then-Foreign Minister Boris Johnson and then-Minister for the Middle East Tobias Ellwood held from 1 October 2016 - 15 October 2016

Please acknowledge my request promptly and respond substantively within 20 working days.

Correspondent Details

Dania Akkad
Middle East Eye
[redacted]
Media

[Redacted]

From: Information Rights Unit <no-reply@fcdo.ecase.co.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 8:21 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: FOI Request - Ref: FOI2022/08743

Dear Dania Akkad,

I am writing in response to your Freedom of Information request FOI2022/08743, received 15th March. Please find our response attached.

Yours sincerely,

Information Rights Unit

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2022 2:05 PM
To: [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Cc: [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Subject: FOI2022/08743 Dania Akkad - Minutes of meetings, 1-15 October 2016, Johnson & Ellwood

We have received a new FOI request.

[Redacted]

From: Information Rights
Sent: 16 March 2022 13:17
To: [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Cc: [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Subject: FOI2022/08743 Dania Akkad - Minutes of meetings, 1-15 October 2016, Johnson & Ellwood

NEW FOI2022/08743 Dania Akkad (Media)

The FOI request below has been allocated to your department.

FOI Ref:	**2022/08743**
Case Manager's (CM) name:	[Redacted]
Response to requester by:	**12 April 2022**

From: Dania Akkad [redacted]
Sent: 15 March 2022 13:20
To: Information Rights (Sensitive) <information.rights@fco.gov.uk>
Subject: FOI request: Minutes of meetings, 1-15 October 2016, Johnson & Ellwood

[Redacted]
Dear FCDO FOI team,

Please acknowledge my request promptly and respond substantively within 20 working days.

Yours faithfully,

Dania Akkad

--

Dania Akkad *Senior Investigations Editor, Middle East Eye*

[redacted]
W: http://www.middleeasteye.net

From: Information Rights Unit <no-reply@fcdo.ecase.co.uk>
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2022 1:16 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Minutes of meetings, 1-15 October 2016, attended by Johnson & Ellwood- Ref: FOI2022/08743

Dear Dania Akkad

Thank you for your FOI request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

We received your request on 15th March. It has been assigned a unique reference number (above). We aim to respond by 12th April.

Please note, however, that reprioritisation of resources due to the COVID-19 crisis, and measures we are required to take to prevent the spread of the virus, continue to have an impact on our ability to respond to all requests within the statutory deadline.

We have significantly reduced on-site working which will mean delays to responses which require access to paper records.

We are endeavouring to process requests as quickly as possible, and appreciate your patience at this time.

Yours sincerely,

Information Rights Unit

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

From: Dania Akkad [redacted]
Sent: 01 August 2022 16:38
To: Information Rights (Sensitive) <information.rights@fco.gov.uk>
Subject: Ref: FOI2022/18968

Hello,

I hope this email finds you well. I am following up on my FOI request made on 4 July, FOI2022/18968. I believe that today marked 20 working days since I made my request, but I

haven't heard back from the unit since the original email acknowledging my request on 6 July.

Thank you for any updates you can offer.

All my best,

Dania

From: [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2022 12:25 PM
To: [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>;
Cc: [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: NEW FOI2022/24692: Dania Akkad - FCO correspondence on arms sales to Saudi Arabia

[Redacted]

Request:

Under the FOIA 2000, please disclose any FCO correspondence on the topic of arms exports and/or arms export licence applications to Saudi Arabia between 8 October 2016 and 14 October 2016 between the FCO and Department for International Trade, and ministers and their teams, including Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the Secretary of State for International Trade and the Prime Minister.

I do not believe that any exemptions will apply to the information within the scope of the request, but in the event that it is asserted that they apply, then please set out full written reasons. If my request is refused based on Section 12 of FOIA 2000, could you please suggest more appropriate dates to bring it within the cost limit?

Please acknowledge my request promptly and respond substantively within 20 working days.

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Sent: 15 July 2022 11:21
To: [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>;[Redacted]@trade.gov.uk>
Cc: [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: NEW FOI2022/18968: Dania Akkad - FCO correspondence on arms sales to Saudi Arabia

We have received a new RFI on arms exports to Saudi Arabia. The request is the same as the one we received in March but with a narrower time frame - now requesting correspondence between **1 October 2016 – 15 October 2016**.

We previously issued a section 12 (disproportionate costs) attached due to the wider scope of the original request.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk.cjsm.net>
Sent: 18 July 2022 16:56
To: [Redacted]@governmentlegal.gov.uk.cjsm.net>
Cc: [Redacted]@governmentlegal.gov.uk.cjsm.net>; [Redacted]@fcdo.gov.uk.cjsm.net>
Subject: [CJSM] FW: NEW FOI2022/18968: Dania Akkad - FCO correspondence on arms sales to Saudi Arabia #2

[Redacted] The requester has now written back with a new FOI request covering a narrower timeframe (1-15 Oct 2016). [Redacted]

From: [Redacted]@trade.gov.uk>
Sent: Friday, July 15, 2022 11:27 AM
To: [Redacted]@fco.gov.uk>;
Cc: [Redacted]@fco.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: NEW FOI2022/18968: Dania Akkad - FCO correspondence on arms sales to Saudi Arabia #2

[Redacted] Yes we received the same cut down request.
[Redacted]

FOI2022/26080	**07/10/2022**	**Ms Dania Akkad**	**Media**	**UK government property in Jerusalem**	[Redacted]

FOI2022/09908	**Ms Dania Akkad**	**Media**	**25-Mar-2022**	**Correspondence on arms exports/licensing applications, Saudi Arabia, 1-31 Oct 2016**	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]

FOI2022/18968	**Ms Dania Akkad**	**04/07/2022**	**FCO correspondence with DIT/PM on arms sales to Saudi Arabia between 1 - 15 Oct 2016**	[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Media

Ms Dania Akkad [redacted]

Middle East Eye

[Redacted] IR2022/27555

FOI2022/18968 Freedom of Information Closed (Complete) FCO correspondence with DIT/PM on arms sales to Saudi Arabia between 1 - 15 Oct 2016

"I am filing this new FOI request after a request I made on 25 March (FOI2022/09908) and also refined on 6 April was unsuccessful on Section 12 grounds according to a letter I received on 26 April. I have now additionally narrowed the time frame, hoping that it will make the request manageable.

Background to request:

Information previously released into the public domain following FOI requests has shown that then-Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson and the Foreign Office Arms Export Policy Team approved continued UK arms sales to Saudi Arabia in July and August 2016, following airstrikes by the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen. See:

https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/boris-johnson-arms-sales-saudi-arabia-yemen-war-weapons-exports-a8955091.html

https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/jun/11/johnson-allowed-arms-sales-to-saudis-after-strike-on-food-factory

Request:

Under the FOIA 2000, please disclose any FCO correspondence on the topic of arms exports and/or arms export licence applications to Saudi Arabia between 1 October 2016 and 15 October 2016 between the FCO and Department for International Trade, and ministers and their teams, including Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the Secretary of State for International Trade and the Prime Minister.

I do not believe that any exemptions will apply to the information within the scope of the request, but in the event that it is asserted that they apply, then please set out full written reasons.

Please acknowledge my request promptly and respond substantively within 20 working days."

[Redacted] Ms Dania Akkad Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

Closed (Complete)	**FOI2021/19203**	**Ms Dania Akkad**	**23/07/2021**	**UK training of Saudi officers on sanction list 2013-2017**	**20/08/2021**	[Redacted]
Closed (Complete)	**FOI2022/08743**	**Dania Akkad**	**15/03/2022**	**Minutes of any meetings, 1-15 October 2016, attended by both B Johnson & T Ellwood**	**12/04/2022**	[Redacted]
Closed (Complete)	**FOI2022/09908**	**Ms Dania Akkad**	**25/03/2022**	**Correspondence on arms exports/licensing applications, Saudi Arabia, 1-31 Oct 2016**	**26/04/2022**	[Redacted]
Closed (Complete)	**FOI2022/18968**	**Ms Dania Akkad**	**04/07/2022**	**FCO correspondence with DIT/PM on arms sales to Saudi Arabia between 1 - 15 Oct 2016**	**01/08/2022**	[Redacted]
Closed (Complete)	**FOI2022/24692**	**Ms Dania Akkad**	**20/09/2022**	**FCO correspondence on arms sales to Saudi Arabia**	**18/10/2022**	[Redacted]
Closed (Complete)	**FOI2022/26080**	**Ms Dania Akkad**	**07/10/2022**	**UK government property in Jerusalem**	**07/11/2022**	[Redacted]